GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:203
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Open and Distance Learning Institutions
Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is promoting Open and Distance Education in the country, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the major streams/disciplines of distance education;
(c) the names of conventional/Deemed Universities having Open and Distance Learning Institutions in the country, State/ UT-wise;
(d) whether the Programmes/Courses run by these Universities have the consent/ approval of the Distance Education Council and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, the action taken by the Government against the defaulting universities?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

3rd POSITION
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A), (B), (C), (D) & (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 203 FOR 9TH MAY, 2016 ASKED BY SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM REGARDING OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

(a): Yes, Madam. At present there is one Central University i.e. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and fourteen (14) public funded State Open Universities (SOUs) apart from the Distance Education Institutions (DEIs) of the Conventional Universities and Deemed Universities offering courses/programmes in the field of Open & Distance Learning (ODL) in the country. The details are given in Annexure-I. The Central Government provides some Plan Funds towards development of course material and quality assurance, student support services at the Head Quarter and Regional Centres, staff training and development, technical support, library facilities and its augmentation, creation of e-content etc. to State Open Universities (SOUs) through the University Grants Commission (UGC) which is the regulatory authority for monitoring and maintenance of standards in the Open and Distance Education in the country.

(b): The major streams/disciplines of ODL programmes/courses offered by various Universities/Deemed Universities as approved by the UGC in the field of ODL education are Humanities, Social Sciences and General Sciences etc.

(c): As per the information furnished by UGC, the State-wise names of the Conventional/Deemed Universities which are approved by the UGC to offer specific programmes through Open and Distance Learning mode during the academic year 2015-16 is given at Annexure-I. Further, UGC while approving the proposals of Conventional/Deemed Universities for running ODL programmes/courses maintains its territorial jurisdiction policy.

(d): Yes, Madam. The universities as refered above can offer only those programmes/courses through ODL mode which are specifically mentioned in the approval letter addressed to the particular university by UGC from time to time.

(e): With a view to maintain standards and quality in running ODL programmes/courses by various Conventional/Deemed Universities, UGC as a regulator examines all complaints received by it, if any, and based on the gravity and seriousness of the complaint(s), issues warning(s), show-cause notice(s) and even withdrawal of the ODL programmes/courses of such universities for not adhering to the UGC guidelines. The UGC also issues public notices etc. for the use of general public to make them aware about the issues of territorial jurisdiction and validity of recognition of the ODL programmes/courses.

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